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LETTER DATED 12 JUNE 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I am writing to you with a feeling of deep concern.

The ancient Azerbaijani town of Shusha, which is one of the renowned historic and cultural centres of the Caucasus and has given the world many great thinkers, writers, poets and musicians, is today being subjected to ruinous and irreparable damage by the Armenian armed forces occupying it.

According to my Government's information, many historic and architectural monuments and buildings, museums, mausoleums, mosques, etc. are being destroyed and transformed into ruins.

Such actions cannot be termed other than barbaric and aimed at destroying a unique cultural heritage which combines within itself the spiritual origins and heritage of Asia and Europe. I cannot but note with regret that during the presence in the region of the United Nations fact-finding mission the Armenian side occupying the town did not create conditions enabling it to visit this protected town.

I appeal urgently to you to use all your influence and authority to halt the destruction of this unique town, with its material and spiritual culture which is of irreplaceable value to the world community, and preserve it for future generations, and to bring about the full and immediate withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces occupying Shusha.

I request you to circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan A. HASSANOV
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Azerbaijani Republic
to the United Nations

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